(vii) Government is conscious of the need for the revival of the industrial sector and has constituted Four Task Forces for Steel, Capital Goods. Commercial Vehicles and Cement to recommend policy interventions to address the problems faced by these sectors. The Task Forces have submitted their recommend tions to the Government. The Government has already notified exemption of seven inputs used in steel manufacturing from the 5% special customs duty. The policy announcements relating to other sectors are expected shortly.

(viii) Government has constituted an Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and the Council on Trade and Industry to the Prime Minister which would discuss policy measures on important economic issues.

It is expected that the slowdown in current year's growth would be arrested and the growth would pick up as a result of the various measures announced.

Global entrepreneurs' conference

45. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day global entrepreneurs conference has been organised at New Delhi on 12th November, 1998;

(b) if so, the names of States and Union Territories and Foreign Countries which participated in the Conference with objectives;

(c) whether the entrepreneurs of Himachal Pradesh also participated in the said meet; and

(d) if so, their names, criteria for their selection with guidance offered by Himachal Pradesh Government with respect to investment in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following States/Union Territories participated in the conference: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Pondicherry. No foreign country participated in the Conference. The main objective of the Conference was to put across the attractive investment environment in India for Foreign Direct Investment, including Investment by Non-Resident Indians, Persons of Indian Origin and Overseas Corporate Bodies (Predominantly owned by the NRIs).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Himachal Pradesh Government Representatives participated in the Conference and offered guidance to participants with respect to investment in Himachal Pradesh.

All State Govts./Union Territories administration/NRIs, foreign and Indian entrepreneurs were welcome to participate in the Conference, hence, there was no criteria or procedure for selection.

Reform Process for PSUs

46. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment propose to undertake some bolder reforms process for Public Sector Units;

(b) if so, the objectives for the same with names of PSUs in Andhra Pradesh to be covered under these moves;

(c) whether these reforms will ensure more job security to workers of PSUs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for ignoring this aspect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (e) Reforms in Public Sector Units are taken up with the requirements of the specific enterprise in view. Reforms of State Public Sector Enterprises are undertaken by the respective State Governments. Restructuring efforts in Public Enterprises are aimed at improving the profitability and viability of enterprises and workers' welfare and interests are of utmost concern of the Government.

Disinvestment of PSUs

47. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the action plan drawn out for outright sale/disinvestment of PSUs for the current year;